

Science Hill High School

Band Handbook

2010-2011

Directors:
Carson Vermillion
Mark Foster
Dan McGuire

It is the intent and purpose of the Science Hill High School instrumental music department to provide all students with a well-rounded, challenging and focused music education which can be used and appreciated for life. Music enriches the traditional curriculum with opportunities for self-expression, creativity, social and emotional development. Students who participate in the performance ensembles and activities of the program should be of a higher caliber, demonstrating dedication, motivation and concern for the total program as well as exemplifying high standards of discipline.

HISTORY

Begun by a music man named H.A. Lee in the late 1920's the Science Hill High School Band was a group that grew out of one of the earliest school music programs in the state, the SHHS Orchestra! Early members in the program tell about purchasing their instrument directly from the band director and having rehearsals after school. After a hiatus caused by the depression, the band was reformed in 1937 under the direction of F. W. Magurean. With high expectations of practice and dedication, the band quickly grew in size and quality. Uniforms were purchased and the band grew to about 100 members in 1940. A trip to the National Concert Band Festival in Charlotte was carried out in 1939 that included the band, choir, and orchestra.

Mr. Magurean left in 1941 and Mr. Warren Weddle was hired. Mr. Weddle's career at Science Hill spanned 27 years and had many highlights. Nicknamed "Weddle's Warriors," the band travelled to the World's Fair in New York, performed in parades throughout the region, and was well known for its size and beautiful uniforms. Mr. George Buda was hired as assistant band director. Many alumni remember the team effort and close relationship between Mr. and Mrs. Weddle quite fondly to this day.

Mr. Jerry Cole was hired as band director in 1967. During his fourteen years as director, the "Topper Band" was recognized as an outstanding concert program. Many years of consecutive Superiors at concert festival and a performance at our state music conference attest to the strength of the program. Major trips included Mexico City, Saint Louis, and Atlanta. Mr. Randy Coapstick and Mr. Vincent Dial joined the band program during Mr. Cole's time as director.

Mr. Mark Bays served as band director from 1981-1984. There was a change of direction within the program with an increased emphasis on marching band. New uniforms were purchased that had the students performing in white tuxedos with white top hats.

Mr. George Jones took over as band director from 1984-1987. An emphasis on concert band was begun and a major trip was planned to Orlando.

Mr. Thomas Stites served as band director from 1987 to 2009. During his tenure the 'Topper Band' grew in strength and numbers due to the combined efforts of many people. Strong support from administrators, city government, and an active band boosters group resulted in new uniforms, band room, and several outstanding bands. Highlights of Mr.

Stites' work include the 1996 and 2000 Macy's Thanksgiving Parade, the 1999 and 2009 Tournament of Roses Parade, the 2002 Honolulu Holiday Parade, a 2007 performance at Carnegie Hall, a performance at the Tennessee Music Educators Conference, and eighteen years of consecutive Superiors in concert festival. Mr. Mark Foster joined the program in 1998 as an Assistant Band Director, adding many years of experience and leadership to the team of directors. Mr. Fred Humphreys joined the staff first as a volunteer and became a part time director in 2004. In the fall of 2005, Mr. Dan McGuire, as SHHS alumnus, joined the staff as a full-time Assistant Director. Mr. Coapstick retired in 2007 and was replaced by Mr. Preston Holley. Under their direction, the SHHS band earned a reputation as one of the finest band programs in the southeast.

In January, 2009, Dr. Carson Vermillion became the eighth Director of Bands at SHHS.

GOALS

The overall musical goal of all the performance based ensembles at Science Hill High School is to enhance and encourage each student's understanding of musical concepts and terms with an emphasis on in class ensemble rehearsals and performances.

Specifically, we want to:

- Apply basic concepts of tone production
- Understand rhythms in literature studied
- Understand technique and pitch discrimination involved in tuning
- Perform all major scales from memory with arpeggios
- Perform a chromatic scale in the appropriate range of your instrument
- Sight-read appropriate musical examples
- Understand terms in literature studied
- Develop a repertoire of ensemble literature appropriate for performance, including musical grade levels of three, four, five, and six

OBJECTIVES

The Science Hill High School band has five primary objectives:

- *Cultural:* To continue the development of music appreciation and understanding through the study and performance of the best in music. In this way, we hope to develop responsible consumers of music in our community to support the program.
- *Educational:* To develop interested and discriminating listeners and provide a well rounded musical background.
- *Service:* To lend color and atmosphere to athletic and community events, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Science Hill High School.
- *Recreational:* To provide all students with the opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet, and good social experiences.

- *Individual:* To help all students grow as musicians and independent thinkers to the point that they gain confidence and a sense of worth as a contributing member of the ensemble.

SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Band Directors:

- Provide the bands with a full musical education through rehearsal, performance, teaching, testing, and listening.
- Plan and conduct each rehearsal to encourage daily progress of the entire band.
- Hire and supervise instructors to provide enhanced musical training to the bands.
- Discipline students for all band activities.
- Select and order all music.
- Prepare and recommend budget line items for equipment, supplies, and the program.
- Plan all musical aspects of public performances.
- Prepare the schedule of band program events before the start of the school year.
- Handle individual student and parent concerns and problems.
- Keep the school administration and the Band Boosters advised of plans, accomplishments, and problems.
- Audition and place the students according to their playing abilities.
- Evaluate and grade the progress of each student on an individual basis.
- Oversee the use of school owned equipment.

The Band Members:

- Attend all class sessions, sectionals, rehearsals, extra rehearsals and performances.
- Make an effort to learn and play daily.
- Become responsible for and assume the consequences of your behavior.
- Show respect for those in authority and fellow students.
- Follow all county, school and classroom policies.
- Cooperate with and encourage fellow band members to produce a unified effort.
- Participate to the best of your ability in fund raising activities.
- Do what's right, do your best, and treat others as you want to be treated!

REHEARSAL PROCEDURES

Rehearsals are the backbone of a strong instrumental music program and must be run efficiently to accomplish the goals of the program. All rules of conduct of Science Hill High School will be strictly enforced. Students may expect full disciplinary actions for any infractions. No students will be allowed to interfere with the music education of another due to a negative attitude or disruptive behavior. We expect all students to:

- Be on time for all rehearsals and in seat or position at tardy bell or when rehearsals begin (outside rehearsals).
- Show self discipline; no talking or disruptive behavior during rehearsals.
- Show respect and courtesy to all students and adults involved in the program.
- No food, drinks, or gum allowed in the band room (except when permitted by the director).
- Keep your instrument clean and in good working order.

Attendance will be taken daily during school rehearsals and after school rehearsals/performances. Attendance at after school rehearsals and performances will be kept for grading purposes.

MARCHING BAND PERFORMANCE CONDUCT

- Science Hill High School is represented in public by the Marching Band. In order to maintain the proper impression of our school and community, these rules will be strictly enforced. Football games are performances, not entertainment events, and all rules of school conduct apply. Performance conduct is as follows:
- The entire uniform will be worn correctly during performances.
- No one is allowed in the band seating area except band members, directors, parents, and guest of the directors.
- Students are not allowed to have food or drinks in stands except when provided by boosters. Do not have friends or parents to bring you food or drink during the game.
- The band will be dismissed for free time and restrooms during the third quarter or at the director's discretion. Students will be required to be back in the stands ready to play at the end of the third quarter. Students that do not abide by this rule will lose third quarter privileges at the next game the band attends.
- The band will enter the stadium in marching formation. No one will be dismissed early from the stands. Exceptions will be made only in an emergency. At the end of the game the group will be dismissed together.
- After performances students and their parents are the only people allowed in the band room. Restrooms and telephones are for band use ONLY. Do not volunteer their use to others.
- Science Hill Band Members will demonstrate the utmost respect for opponents while in uniform, no matter what the other band members and fans may do! Foul language or gesture and public displays of affection while in uniform will not be tolerated.
- On buses, students will remain seated in an orderly fashion. Noise levels must be kept at a level that it is not distracting to the driver. Chaperones are always treated with the utmost respect. Please remember that they are volunteering their time and we cannot travel without them.
- When away from Science Hill, students will not behave in any manner that will bring embarrassment or ill will to our community. We do not have time for

warnings or immature behavior. We expect you to conduct yourselves as mature young adults.

- Any actions breaking school rules while partaking in a band activity (smoking, alcohol, drugs, fighting, assault) could result in losing extracurricular band activities (football games, concerts, trips) for the remainder of the year at the discretion of the director and school Principal. Excessive actions could result in removal from band program.

Stands Policies

- No food or drinks except during third quarter break.
- No outside visitors.
- No random playing of instruments. All section cheers must be cleared with a director.
- Sit in your assigned section.
- Be on time for warm-up.
- Third quarter break begins upon return to the stands and ends with one minute left in the quarter. Those missing the deadline will lose third quarter for the next game.
- When at a marching contest, cheer for the other groups. They have worked just as hard as you and deserve your applause.
- No hats, gloves, or other clothing items may be worn that are not part of the band uniform.

Travel Policies

- Students must sit in their assigned seats on school buses.
- On charter coaches, students must stay on their assigned bus.
- Everyone will stay on their bus when unloading until cleared by the directors.
- Everyone will assist with unloading luggage and instruments.
- When staying in a hotel or motel, there is no mixed visiting in the rooms.
- Be considerate of other hotel guest when we travel and stay in a hotel.
- Chaperones will check all students out of their rooms – students will not leave until the room has been cleared by a chaperone.

Concert Policies

- Always report at the designated call time (usually 30 minutes before a concert).
- Be aware of the dress for concert performance (it varies by ensemble).
- Please be considerate of another group's performance and be quiet while they are performing.
- Applause should be spirited, but not obnoxious. Please use common sense in your support.
- Never exit or enter the auditorium while a group is performing.

GRADING PROCEDURES

Nine-week averages will be determined by the following:

- Passing off assigned music or exercises to a tutor or director will be 50% of the term's average.
- The specific pieces/exercises to be passed off will be posted at the beginning of each grading period. Each assignment not passed off at the end of the grading period will result on a lowering of grade by one letter grade (10 points). Each nine-week period will have approximately five (5) assignments.
- Students may pass off for the director after school according to the director's afternoon schedule.
- A terms test and intonation quiz will be administered each nine weeks that will be 20% of the final average.
- Daily grades concerning classroom and rehearsal procedures will be 30% of the nine-week grade. Points will be lost for students not having instrument, music, pencil, drill charts or anything that disrupts classroom participation. If you are well enough to be at school you are expected to participate. After school rehearsals are extensions to the school day, and therefore fall under the daily grade jurisdiction
- Performances are considered as major "tests." Unexcused absences will result in a lowering of your grade for the grading period by one letter grade.
- A final exam will be administered at the end of the semester and will be averaged into the final grade of the class.

CHAIR PLACEMENT AND CHALLENGES

Students will audition for chair placements at the end of the Marching season and at the beginning of the second semester. The audition will consist of the All-Region requirements prepared by the ETSBOA.

Following initial placement, students may challenge players sitting above them to gain a higher seat. Challenges will consist of one piece of music the band is currently rehearsing. The student being challenged will decide the piece to be performed. In case of a tie, sight-reading chosen by the director will be performed. The challenge will be blind. You may challenge as often as you want but no later than two weeks before a concert date, except within the same part. Repeated challenges will not be allowed if the frequency is on the verge of harassment. You must find a mutually agreeable day to challenge the person above you. The challenge must be on the same day or it will be null. If a player refuses to accept a challenge the chair placement will be adjusted accordingly. If you are unsuccessful at an attempted to challenge at least one (1) week must pass before a re-challenge can take place.

UNIFORMS

During the month of April, the annual band uniform garage sale will be held after school. Current students can sell their uniforms to new members and switch with other current members. A fair value is determined and students purchase the uniform from each other (we do not take money for traded uniforms). After the April uniform exchange period, a one-week window for ordering new uniforms will be offered. Students will be measured during class and uniforms will be ordered. The cost of a new uniform is approximately \$200. The pants and jacket of the band uniform belong to and are purchased by the student, not the band program. All accessories (hat, plume, baldric, and gauntlets) belong to the program and will be checked out to each performer at the beginning of the marching season. If accessories are lost or damaged, the student is responsible for the repair or replacement of the garment.

Colorguard members must purchase their performance outfit. Each member will be given this information at the end of tryouts that take place in May or during the summer pre-camps. For cold weather, the color guard members will be issued a warm-up suit.

All students will wear their uniform as described as below. Failure to comply will result in a grade penalty and a possible loss of performance privileges.

Whenever the member is seen in public, shoes must be on, black socks in place, uniform pants in place with suspenders on the shoulders, uniform coat closed at the neck, and baldric in place.

- The hat, gauntlets, baldric, and gloves may be carried separately in the provided hat box.
- Gentlemen and ladies will not wear jewelry with the uniform.
- All wind and percussion wear Drillstars black marching shoes with black socks.
- All wind players wear white cotton gloves.
- All members must have a clear plastic poncho available at every marching performance. These are available locally for a price of \$5.00.
- All hair (male and female) that is below the collar must be concealed inside the hat.
- Students will refrain from using excessive make-up with the uniform.
- Uniforms should be neat and clean for each performance. Periodic inspections will take place.
- All students are responsible for having all parts of the uniform at each performance.
- When traveling, all parts of the uniform are to be carried in a hanging bag on a sturdy wooden hanger.
- If a uniform part is damaged or lost, replacement or repair is the responsibility of the student.

SCHOOL OWNED EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

Students who play flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trombones and trumpets are expected to provide their own instruments. Percussionists are expected to provide their own mallets and sticks. These instruments must be in good repair and be brought to all rehearsals and performances. If your instrument needs extensive repair, you should arrange to borrow or rent a replacement. The director has a limited supply of instruments that may be used until yours is returned. Music Doctors Music Company provides a reputable repair service. Instruments are generally returned in a timely manner. You may also take your instrument to other repair centers.

Other instruments are available for students to rent who play oboe, bassoon, bass clarinet, tenor and baritone saxophone, horn and mellophone, baritone and marching baritone, tuba and sousaphone, and percussion/marching percussion. There is currently a \$50 charge for use of school owned instruments. Students will fill out an instrument loan agreement at the beginning of the semester and check the instrument in at the conclusion of the semester. All instruments must be checked in during the final exam period even if you will be using the instrument during the next term or during the summer.

INSTRUMENT AND ACCESSORIES GUIDELINES:

- Band members are responsible for normal maintenance on school owned equipment required to keep it functioning properly.
- Reeds, valve oil, cork grease, slide oil, drum sticks (with some exceptions) and mallets will not be provided by the band program. These may be purchased through a music company.
- Report any major repair problems to the director immediately.
- Vandalism or abuse of any school instrument or the band facility will result in strong disciplinary action from the director. Vandalism or abuse of equipment will not be tolerated.
- Instrumentalist will return all instruments to their proper storage area following all rehearsals, games, and concerts.
- Percussionists are to return all marching, keyboard percussion, auxiliary equipment, and mallets to their storage area after each use.

Band Facilities:

- Band Room and Percussion Room; members are reminded to keep band room clean and neat at all times. Keep chairs and stands in their proper place at all times. All personal items left in band room will be sent to Goodwill or Salvation Army. If it is left on the floor, the director will assume the object is no longer wanted by the band member.
- Instrument Storage Room; is for instrumental storage only. All personal items are to be kept in your personal school locker. The school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items in the locker room. This room should be kept clean with instruments in their case and the cases shut. No instruments should be left in this room over the weekend or holiday.

- Band Director's Office; the director's office is private and not to be used by students. Courtesy will be expected from all students when the door is closed or adult guest are present.

Individually owned instruments:

Individual instruments are the responsibility of each student. Quality step-up instruments are strongly encouraged for the student when they enter 9th grade. This gives the student a better instrument to play, a chance to develop into a stronger player, and helps encourage them in their development. A list of preferred instruments is below. Please talk to one of the directors for any additional help.

Preferred Instruments:

Flute:

Yamaha (solid silver body, open hole, B-foot)

Trumpet:

Bach Stradivarius with ML bore
Yamaha Xeno

Clarinet:

Buffet R-13 (nickel keys)

French Horn:

Holton Farkas 179

Oboe:

Loree, Fox 300 or above

Trombone:

Bach 42 or 42BO

Saxophone:

Selmer USA
Yamaha 52 or 62

Euphonium:

Yamaha 321

Tuba:

B&S PT4 rotary valve tuba

YEARLY SCHEDULE

July- August

Our annual calendar begins each year in July. Min-camps are scheduled throughout the summer for the guard and drumline members. Full Band camp is scheduled during the end of July for two weeks; a one week mini-camp for rising 9th graders, winds, percussion, and colorguard (9 AM – 4 PM) culminating in a one-week full band camp (8 AM – 9 PM). Dates for the camp are set in April.

Our usual band camp schedule is 8 am – 9 pm with an hour for lunch and dinner. Students provide their own lunch with the band boosters provide dinner. Instructors are hired to assist the directors and students during camp. Because of the intense nature of the week, attendance is mandatory for all members. Football games begin in late August. The band travels to select away games.

September-October

Marching band rehearses Monday and Tuesday from 1:00-3:30 pm. Thursday's rehearsal ends at 4 pm. We depart in our drill block at precisely 1:15 pm for each rehearsal. We end rehearsal at our practice field at 3:30 pm and march back to the band room (4 pm on Thursday). Arrival time at the bandroom is usually 3:45 pm (4:15 pm on Wednesday). Parents should park in the 2nd or 3rd lots to pick-up students to alleviate traffic congestion.

Performances are scheduled at each football game and on three contests each fall. The schedule is printed on the band t-shirts for easy reference and also appears in the band camp letter mailed in June. Departure times vary for away games due to the distance involved in travel. Report time for home games is 6:00 pm at our football stadium.

A schedule for each contest date will be distributed ten days before the event. Our annual pledge carwash is scheduled on a Saturday in late August or early September. Our annual fruit sale is held in the month of October. More information on these events can be found in the section on fundraisers.

November-December

This is time for transition from marching band to concert band. We hold chair auditions, sign students up for clinics, perform in the Christmas Parade on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, and prepare for our campus holiday concerts. The annual fruit sale is delivered on the first Saturday in December.

January-February

ETSBOA Clinic auditions are held in January. This is a great chance to recognize the progress of each student through a clinic audition. Our students will compete with others from across the region for placement in select groups. Clinic auditions are not required, but strongly encouraged for each of our students. A large number of our students who are successful in these auditions are offered college scholarship money. Auditions are held the second weekend (grades 10-12) and third weekend (8-9) in January. The clinics are held the first weekend (10-12) and second weekend (8-9) in February. In late January or early February, we host the Johnson City Band Clinic for all of our SHHS Band students. This weekend clinic (Friday – Saturday afternoon) provides our students to work with nationally renowned clinicians/conductors on music with a culminating concert Saturday evening.

March and April

Winter concerts will be scheduled for each group on campus in March. Students who are not performing are encouraged to attend others' performances. Concert festival is the beginning of April. We value concert festival performance as the true measure of our success in the SHHS band program.

A second audition is held for each group that places students in chairs, marks a major test grade, and places them in groups for the next school year. All-State Band is held each

year at this time. Dates will be set at least four months in advance. Auditions for the next fall's colorguard, percussion section, and drum majors are held during this time of the year.

May-June

This month includes our annual band banquet and spring concerts for each group on campus. A final performance of our Wind Ensemble with all the seniors at graduation closes out the year. Preparations for the upcoming season begin in June.

BAND BOOSTERS

We have a large and active band boosters group that supplies many of the needs for our students. Twenty committees are formed yearly including: uniforms, sewing, cooking, field crew, hospitality, ushers, concessions, and a host of others. These kinds of parental groups keep the band affordable for all of our students and give us a chance to support our students in their efforts. We need many leaders and volunteers to make this group work. Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month starting in August in the SHHS auditorium. Meetings begin at 7 pm and end at 8 pm.

A complete copy of the By-Laws is available on the band website for your information. A band booster board meets monthly to guide the actions of our parent group. Each meeting will include reports from active committees, reports on upcoming events, and information from the board.

Band Booster FAQs

- 1. What is the band booster organization?** Science Hill High School Band Boosters, Inc. is incorporated as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, complete with a charter, bylaws, and board of directors. The purpose of the organization is to provide for the needs of the Science Hill High School Band Program that are not already supplied by the Johnson City School System. Many committees are in place to accomplish the extensive goals of the organization. For more information regarding the organization and committees, see the web site at www.shhsbandboosters.org.
- 2. My child is in 8th grade. Do I need to come to Band Booster meetings?** New members are strongly encouraged to attend Band Booster meetings. A lot of the information discussed there will only affect marching band members, but you also have an opportunity to hear what events are coming up and to interact with other band parents.
- 3. How often do the boosters meet?** The Friday of band camp plus the first Thursday of each month from September through April. Meetings are held in the 10-12 auditorium at 7:00 p.m.
- 4. How can I find out what happened at a meeting that I missed?** The website for the Band Boosters is a great resource for information. You can also sign up for band-

booster broadcast emails to stay up-to-date. *(Go to the website and select "Subscription" from the left menu, and enter your email address.)*

5. **Is my 8th grader required to fund raise?** 8th graders are not required to fund raise; however, any amount they earn during that year goes into their fundraising account that accumulates over their tenure in band.
6. **How many fund raisers are there?** There are typically three – The Pledge Car Wash, Fruit Sale, and Winter Frozen Food Sale.
7. **What other ways does the band raise funds?** Concessions at home football games (our biggest fundraiser), Trailer Ads, and Grants. More information on each of these can be found at the website under "Committee Descriptions."
8. **How can I get in touch with a band director?** Phone the band room office at 232-2193, and leave a message if no answer. The directors are: Dr. Carson Vermillion (vermillionc@jcschools.org), Mark Foster (fosterm@jcschools.org), and Dan McGuire (mcguired@jcschools.org).
9. **What is the best way to meet other band parents?**
 - A. Come to Band Camp Parents' Night – each booster activity has current parent chairs present, and this provides a great opportunity to ask questions and find "where you fit."
 - B. Come to Band Booster Meetings
 - C. Volunteer – A multitude of opportunities exist such as helping in the Concession Stand (Every parent is expected to work at least one home varsity football game in the concession stand.), field set-up / take-down for marching band, chaperoning, and many others. A more complete list of volunteer opportunities is listed on the website at www.shhsbandboosters.org.

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising is necessary to keep our costs at the lowest possible level for each student. There are two types of fundraisers offered: those that benefit the entire organization and those that flow into trip accounts. The entire group projects include football concessions, corporate, a portion of the carwash, and a fruit sale.

The trip fund raisers include a portion of the carwash, 1/3 of the total fruit sale, and a variety of other fundraisers tailored to the needs of the particular year. Some students choose not to participate and pay for trips out of their pocket. These students are still expected to assist with group efforts such as the carwash. The portion that benefits the entire program will still need to be donated to take care of expenses.

Examples of expenses covered by the entire group fundraisers are: extra staffing, bus transportation, clinics, guest conductors, awards, props, and instrument maintenance.

BECOMING A BAND MEMBER

Each year scheduling becomes more and more difficult. We understand the choices students will need to make but expect a commitment to the program. Our counseling staff and the directors are adept at helping you balance everything and continue your participation in band. All members must be a member of a band class. A one-term exemption is offered to students taking multiple Advanced Placement (AP) classes or requires a certain class in order to graduate with the approval of the director (historically, a junior year class conflict). Any student who drops a band class cannot remain as a member and will not be recognized at the awards banquet.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all rehearsals and performances. Absences must be cleared by the director before they happen (except due to extreme illness or family emergency). Students not in band room by the tardy bell will be counted tardy. Students not in their seats/sections three minutes after the tardy bell will be counted tardy. According to the SHHS student handbook consequences will include:

1st tardy	Teacher warning and documented
2nd tardy	Teacher warning and documented
3rd tardy	Teacher calls parent, documented and/or detention with teacher is given.
4th tardy	Teacher sends documentation to Attendance Office. Administration will assign 3 days of after school detention and contact parent for conference.
5th tardy	ISS: 1 day & loss of driving privileges if tardies are occurring for 1st period.
6th tardy	ISS: 2 days
7th tardy	ISS: 3 days
8th tardy	ISS: 4 days
9th tardy & there after	Possible Alternative Center placement

FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

Marching Band Camp	\$100.00 (\$50 due in Spring)
Eighth Grade Band	\$60.00
School Instrument Rental	\$50.00 (due at band camp registration)
Fair Share/Travel	\$200.00 (due after car wash fundraiser)

STUDENT LEADERS

Band President	Senior
Vice President	Junior or Senior
Secretary	Sophomore or above
Treasurer	Sophomore or above

These offices are intended to take care of the business of the band when not in performance. Various task and duties are assigned to them yearly. The voice of the band in items concerning the members of the band. They should be aware of all that is going on within the group and share any concerns with the directors. Elected each spring.

Drum majors:

Expected to be in charge of students on the field. Responsible for tempos, discipline, and other leadership roles in marching band. One of the toughest jobs within our organization. Selected through audition in the spring.

Section leaders:

The nuts and bolts of the marching band. Responsibilities include: teaching drill, music, minor organization needs of music, drill charts, and communication with drum majors.

PRIVATE LESSONS

Private lessons are an important part of any successful band program. Our program cannot exist at the level it does without committed private teachers and committed parents willing to support this effort. Costs in our area are in the range of \$15-\$20 per half hour lesson. Some lessons are offered on campus by area teachers. Private lessons and regular practice is the key to long-term success for every student. Please contact the band office for the names and numbers of area teachers.

AWARDS

A variety of awards are handed out at our annual banquet:

- Certificates for yearly participation
- Senior awards for four years of membership
- Outstanding awards for each grade level
- Most Improved
- Band Spirit Award

Each of these awards is made by the staff with consideration given to the entire year's effort by the student.

ENSEMBLES

Eighth Grade Band

The primary focus of the 8th Grade Band is the development of intermediate to advanced playing fundamentals. Students are encouraged to build good practice habits through daily and weekly playing tests and challenges. Three concerts are scheduled through the year and students are encouraged to audition for Junior Band Clinic in January. All eighth grade band members join the marching band at the Homecoming football game to experience being part of the marching band. Grading is based on weekly playing tests and written work. A missed performance will lower the student's grade one letter. Private lessons are encouraged but not required. Concert attire is black and white: ladies are to wear a white top that conforms to the school dress code and black pants or skirt that must be below the knee when seated; men are to wear black pants and a white collared shirt, black shoes and black socks.

9th Grade Concert Band

A group composed exclusively of ninth grade students, the primary focus of this ensemble is the continuation of intermediate to advanced playing fundamentals.

Marching band is required of all members. Three campus concerts and one concert festival are scheduled each year and students are highly encouraged to audition for the Junior Band Clinic in January. Students are tested on their mastery of concert music, technical exercises, and common terminology. Private lessons are highly encouraged but not required. Concert attire is black and white: ladies are to wear a white top that conforms to the school dress code and black pants or skirt that must be below the knee when seated; men are to wear black pants and a white collared shirt, black shoes and black socks.

Symphonic Band

This ensemble consists of 10th-12th grade students and assigned by audition the previous spring. This group rehearses marching band music through October and high school concert band literature for the rest of the year. **Marching band is required of all members.** An exception to the marching band requirement can be considered for those involved in another school activity that conflicts with the marching band schedule. This exemption is at the director's discretion. Four concerts are scheduled each year along with a concert festival. Opportunities for several band clinics, leadership clinics, and solo and ensemble are offered each year. Students are encouraged to participate in the ETSBOA clinic in February. Students are tested on their mastery of concert music, technical exercises, and common terminology. Private lessons are highly encouraged but not required. Concert attire is black and white: ladies are to wear a white top that conforms to the school dress code and black pants or skirt that must be below the knee when seated; men are to wear black pants and a white collared shirt, black shoes and black socks.

Wind Ensemble

This is premiere musical group of the SHHS band program. This group performs the highest level of wind band music available. Recognized as one of the finest ensembles in the state, past performances include our state music convention and the Grand National Adjudicator's Invitational. Membership is determined by an audition during the previous spring. Three concerts are scheduled on campus each year with one or two concert festivals off campus. **Marching band is required for all members.** An exception to the marching band requirement can be considered for those involved in another school activity that conflicts with the marching band schedule. This exemption is at the director's discretion. Participation in the ETSBOA clinic in February is highly recommended. Students are tested on their mastery of concert music, technical exercises, and common terminology. Private lessons are highly encouraged due to the high level of difficulty of the music performed. Concert attire for ladies is a black conservative dress that must be below the knee when seated; men are provided a tuxedo jacket and pants from the school. **Men are to provide a tuxedo shirt, black bowtie, and cumber bun.**

Marching Band

The Marching Band is the largest and most visible part of our band program. With over 200 performing members, the marching band has represented our school and state in front of over 500 million people on national television. With past performances in the Macy's and Tournament of Roses Parades, many marching band championships, and the NBC Today Show, membership in this group has many opportunities to offer each member. Practices are scheduled beginning with band camp and continuing on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons through October. Performances at 10 football games and three marching contests are scheduled each fall in addition to any community parades. Each member of the marching band must be a member of a band class at Science Hill High School (colorguard members must register for Marching Band). An exception to the marching band requirement can be considered for those involved in another school activity that conflicts with the marching band schedule. This exemption is at the director's discretion.

Percussion Ensembles

This ensemble is for percussionists in our program grades 9-12. Emphasis is placed on building effective percussion performance techniques through a large ensemble. Focus in the fall is on marching percussion with a transition to concert percussion in the winter and spring. Select members will be chosen to perform with the wind groups when needed to complete instrumentation. **Marching band is required for all members.**

Jazz Band

This group plays music from the swing era up to contemporary literature. The jazz band rehearses once a week beginning in November and continues through May. This group performs at a wide variety of community functions and in concert on campus.

BAND ORGANIZATION

- I. Board of Education
- II. Administration
 - A. Superintendent: Dr. Richard Bales
 - B. Principal: Dr. John Boyd
 - 1. Assistant Principal: Dr. Catherine Edwards
 - 2. Assistant Principal: Marvin Christman
 - 3. Assistant Principal: Jeff Aldridge
- III. Instrumental Music Department:
 - A. Director of Bands: Dr. Carson Vermillion
 - B. Associate Director of Bands: Mr. Mark Foster
 - C. Assistant Director of Bands: Mr. Dan McGuire
 - D. Indian Trail Middle School Director: Mr. Preston Holley
- IV. Elected Student Body Officers and Duties:
 - A. President
 - B. Vice-President
 - C. Secretary
 - D. Treasurer
- V. Appointed Band Staff:
 - A. Drum Major: Selected by audition each spring, serves as field conductor for the band. Helps run rehearsals and sectionals in the fall, responsible for freshman marching instruction and guidance, assist during inspections, and serves as band representative at all marching competitions, and any other duties the director may assign. Must have at least one (1) year of high school band instruction in order to audition.
 - B. Section Leader: Selected through application by the directors. These individuals must have outstanding musical ability as well as strong leadership qualities. Students must be a junior or senior to be a section leader.

CONTRACT

Student Name: _____

I have read and discussed the band handbook with my parents/guardian and fully understand the procedures and information pertaining to the band program at Science Hill High School. I understand that my actions will be held accountable and discipline and rewards will be administered in a fair, thought-out manner by the Directors. I also understand that if I have any specific concerns with the band program that I have the right to discuss them with the Directors on a one on one basis, not embarrassing myself or the Director in front of the band members. I will do my best to follow these procedures and make my experience with the band program the most positive and productive as possible given my abilities.

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____